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CREWKERNE URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ended 31st December, 1945

Public Health Officers:-

Medical Officer of Health

D.V. HAGUE, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

H.R. STAMP, A.R. SAN. I.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Crewkerne Urban District
Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1945.
It is hoped that houses will soon become available to relieve the
extreme shortage of accommodation. The Council are aware of the
serious nature of present overcrowding with its social difficulties
and ever present risk of epidemic diseases. In the circumstances the
general health of the town is remarkably good. Very few cases of
infectious disease were notified and only two cases were admitted to
South Petherton Hospital; one of these was a War-worker - a temporary
resident.

Since the end of the War several ships have arrived in the
country with cases of Small Pox or Small Pox contacts on board.
Several of these contacts have come to Crewkerne. Though there has
never been any serious risk it has been a relief to know that a fair
proportion of the local population have recently been vaccinated.

The water supply to the town is still inadequate in quantity.
It has not as yet been possible to proceed with improvements at the
Eastern Outfall Sewage Works.

Hospital services continue to be good but there is no improve-
ment in the serious shortage of Nurses. Domestic staff are also
difficult to obtain.

Yours faithfully,

D.V. HAGUE.

This will be my last Report to the Council. I should like to express my thanks to the Council for their unfailing courtesy and help in the execution of my duties and to the Clerk and Sanitary Inspector for their cordial co-operation which has made much of my work extremely pleasant.



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SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| Area ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,221 Acres |
| Registrar-General's estimate of | | | | | |
| (a) Resident Population, mid-1944 | | | | | |
| (b) Average Population appropriate to the | | | | | |
| caloulation of death rates | | | | | 3,682 |
| Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according | | | | | |
| to Rate Books | | | | | 1,200 |
| Rateable Value ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £21,123 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £83 |

Extracts from Vital Statistics

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> |
|--|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| Live Births - Legitimate | 42 | 22 | 20 |
| Illegitimate | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| Still Births - Legitimate | 1 | - | 1 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |
| Deaths | 54 | 28 | 26 |
| Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population | | 13 | |
| Still Birth rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births | | 20 | |
| Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population | | 14 | |

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

| | <u>Deaths</u> | <u>Rate per 1,000</u> <u>total Births</u> <u>(Live and Still)</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---|
| No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis | Nil | Nil |
| No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes | | |

Death Rate of Infants under One year of Age

| | |
|---|-----|
| All infants per 1,000 Live Births | 42 |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate Live Births | 48 |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births | Nil |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | 7 |
| " " Measles (all ages) | Nil |
| " " Whooping Cough (all ages) | Nil |
| " " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) | Nil |

Causes of Death

| | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Heart Disease | 8 | 5 |
| Other Circulatory Diseases | 1 | 1 |
| Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions | 1 | 4 |
| Cancer | 4 | 3 |
| Diabetes | - | 1 |
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System | 2 | 1 |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis | 1 | - |
| Bronchitis | 1 | 2 |
| Pneumonia | 2 | - |
| Digestive Disorders | 1 | - |
| Premature Birth | - | 1 |
| Road Traffic Accidents | 1 | - |
| Other Violent Causes | - | 1 |
| All Other Causes | 6 | 7 |
| | <u>28</u> | <u>26</u> |

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. (1) Medical Officer of Health }
Sanitary Inspector } No change.
2. (a) Laboratory Facilities } No change.
(b) Ambulance Facilities } No change.
(c) Clinic }
(d) Nursing } No change.
(e) Hospital }

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply. The supply was curtailed for many months owing to the low level of springs and breakdown of pumping machinery. A new 14 H.P. Sumo submersible pump was installed at the Crewkerne Water Supply Company's Maiden Beech borehole replacing an existing Diesel engine and pump

Generally speaking the quality of the supply has been good for several years but ~~this year there was~~ evidence of slight contamination in one sample taken. Three other samples were satisfactory. Several inspections of the works and springs revealed no cause for the one doubtful sample. The main supply is chlorinated and serves direct some 1,200 houses and approximately 3,750 population. Twenty-four houses, with about 80 inhabitants are supplied from local wells.

2. Drainage and Sewerage. No extensions of sewers or improvements at the Eastern Outfall Works have been carried out during the year. Details of a new Sewage Disposal Scheme at the Eastern Outfall Works are in course of preparation - estimated to cost approximately £24,500.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation
 (ii) Public Cleansing
 (iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area:

No change

No change

Inspections for nuisances:-

Informal Notices:-

Nil

Draining Tests and Inspections.

New draining work carried out during the year was tested and passed.

Houses disinfected

2 Houses were disinfected following cases of infectious diseases, and one following cancer.

Shops and Offices

No action was taken during the year under the Shops Act, 1934.

Smoke Abatement

No cases of smoke nuisance were reported during the year.

4. Schools

No change

Evacuees under the Government Scheme are accommodated at the Crewkerne Schools.

SECTION D - HOUSING

No new houses have been built during the year. Nearly all evacuees had left the town by the end of the year. Twelve condemned houses are still temporarily in use.

Housing Inspections

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts)... ... 33
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 33
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under H. Con. Reg. 1925 and 1932... ... Nil
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose Nil
- (c) Number of houses in which no action was found necessary Nil
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation

4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation TWO

Housing Action

- (a) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ONE
- (b) Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action NIL

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

Proceedings under the Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936... .. NIL

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

Proceedings under Sections 11, 13, and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936... .. NIL

Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 NIL

Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding

There is still some unavoidable but highly undesirable overcrowding.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

Number of Producers on the Register TEN

Number of Distributors on the register
divided as follows:

- (1) Distributors only FOUR
(2) Distributors who are also Producers TWO

Action taken with regard to inspection of farms and dairies, examination of samples for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli, and the administration of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938:

Cowsheds and dairies are periodically inspected and samples for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli taken for examination.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

Number of Slaughterhouses licensed ONE

Slaughterhouse, Shops, etc., are inspected and meat and other foods are examined, and, where necessary, condemning notices are served.

(c) Adulteration, etc.

Local action taken NONE

SECTION F

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria Immunisation

The following children are now immunised:-

| | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| 467 | school children (5-14 years inclusive) | 93% |
| 217 | children under school age (1-4 years inclusive)... .. | 70% |

x These figures refer only to children attending County maintained schools. It has not been possible to ascertain figures for children in the district attending other schools, though it is believed that the great majority of these children are also immunised.

Notifiable Diseases

| Disease | Total cases notified | Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital | Total Deaths |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Scarlet Fever | 1 | - | - |
| Measles | 30 | - | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 3 | - | - |
| Pneumonia | 1 | 1 | 2 |

The following case of Non-notifiable Infectious Disease was admitted to South Petherton Isolation Hospital:-

Cervical Adenitis 1 (War worker)

Analysis of the Total Cases Notified

| | Under 1 yr. | 1-2 yrs. | 2-3 yrs. | 3-4 yrs. | 4-5 yrs. | 5-10 yrs. | 10-15 yrs. | 15-20 yrs. | 20-35 yrs. | 35-45 yrs. | 45-65 yrs. |
|-------------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Scarlet Fever | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Measles | 2 | 2 | - | 6 | - | 7 | 12 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | - |
| Pneumonia | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |

Tuberculosis

| Age Period | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|--------------|-------------|----|-----------------|----|-------------|----|-----------------|----|
| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Under 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 1 - 5 | | | | | | | | |
| 5 - 15 | | | | | | | | |
| 15 - 25 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| 25 - 35 | | | | | 1 | | | |
| 35 - 45 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | |
| 45 - 55 | | | | | | | 1 | |
| 55 - 65 | | | | | 1 | | | |
| 65 & upwards | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 2 | 1 | - | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | - |

Total

New Cases 3

Deaths 4